

the LawnShed

All you need for the perfect backyard

A LAWN LOVER'S GUIDE

In this issue:

DIVE INTO THE SOIL

Our soil is literally teeming with flora and fauna. We take a quick look into the key soil elements and how a great fertiliser can supercharge these

OUR YEARLY PLAN

With so much information included in this edition we have created a handy yearly plan to make it easy to follow along

A CASE STUDY

We see first hand how easy it was to turn a lawn around with a Spring Lawn Care pack

KNOW THY ENEMY

An in depth look at common pests Lawn Armyworm, African Black Beetle and Leaf Spot



A LAWN LOVER'S GUIDE

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Editor's Note



It's so exciting to be able to share this, our first Lawn Lover's Guide. It's taken some time to put together but it was a labour of love, because I love nothing more than reading, talking and writing about grass.

As our first ever Lawn Lover's Guide it makes sense that we start at the beginning, so for this guide we have focused on keeping it simple.

We've included some guides on the most common diseases and pests that are likely to attack your lawn. This includes some basic information that you need to know such as how to kill these pests, however there are a couple of nasties that we felt you should have some more details on. So we pulled them out and added some in depth profiles.

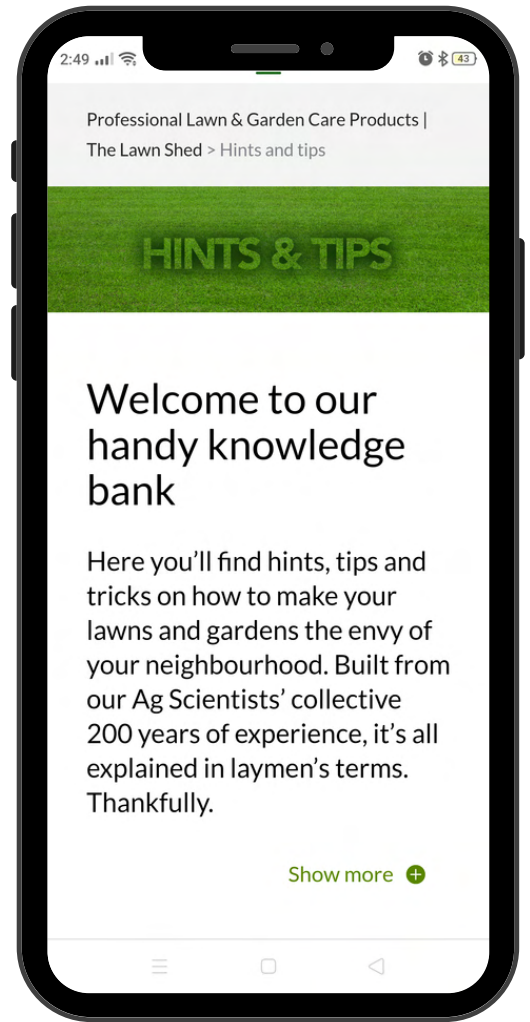
We start our series on soil science, as Dick Johnson used to say, "soils ain't soils" or something to that effect. Soil science can be complicated and we love to get technical but in this edition we have covered, what's in soil and how we impact the organic components through fertilisation.

We love supporting our customers, so it's amazing when we hear back from you about the great results you have achieved, in this guide we share an example of how easily a lawn can be turned around into the best lawn in the street.

A short article to introduce plant growth regulators is written by our guest writer Dr Henk Smith, Technical Director of Living Turf, a literal expert in the field of turf management.

Ultimately we stand by my catch phrase, "we're here to help you" and that's exactly why we have written this guide, because we want you to see how easy it is to have the best lawn in the street. If this guide leaves things unanswered or if you would like to suggest some topics for our next guide, then please contact me at help@thelawnshed.com.au because, as I said, I love talking lawn.

Ian Thompson
Master of Agriculture (Turf Management)



Spring: The time for action

"Spring is the time of plans and projects"

LEO TOLSTOY

No matter how you use your lawn, Spring is the time to, pardon the pun, spring into action...

It's the time to get out and busy in the garden as your lawn is starting to wake up from its Winter nap.

Plants are truly amazing, in so many ways, and lawns are just millions of little grass plants all joined together to form a lawn.

With their roots firmly planted into the soil, lawns are reliant on soil temperatures rising to the right temperature for growth before it can kick into action.

A lawn's roots can run deep into the soil, so be careful, we always have a couple of warm days at the end of Winter and we get excited, just remember the soil is far more stable and

not influenced by a single warm but still quite short day.

As temperatures warm up in our gardens it makes sense that we are going to be spending more time playing in it, so it's time to get it perfect.

As your lawn wakes up and begins to grow it tries to develop healthy new growth, so it's important to have adequate nutrition in the soil.

With the warmer temperatures you may see some new unwanted growth, seeds of annoying Summer grass weeds will start to germinate.

Lastly, it's also the time for some insect pests to start their lifecycles, Spring is the perfect time to protect against them in their juvenile state.



Is Your Lawn Protected?

INSECTS AND WEEDS ARE CONSISTENT

Guided by soil temperature, annoying grass weeds are looking to germinate and insects are feeling hungry. Check out our Weed and Insect Guides for products that protect for up to 6 months.



What to expect this growing season

Plus, how to deal with it

What to expect

It's still a bit early for us to know exactly what is in store for us this Spring, but in the interest of planning our attack we've had a shot.

This Spring looks a lot drier than 2021, with the end of La Nina. Above normal rainfall is predicted for most of the country with Tasmania and Western Australia hovering around more normal rainfall figures.

Unfortunately, for the eastern coastline it once again looks like it will be in the top 20% of years for rainfall, so drier but not dry.

As a result of the increased cloud coverage and rainfall, temperatures are expected to be low again across the country.

How to deal with it

Well if you had great success with your program last year then we would recommend much of the same. The key here is ensuring the low light and excess water don't impact your lawn too much.

To help with that, we recommend the use of growth regulators which we cover in this edition, this will help control the lawns growth.

Secondly, we recommend the use of light frequent applications of liquid fertiliser. Granulars are likely to be washed away or create surges in growth which will promote large amounts of new growth, susceptible to fungal infection.



CATCH SOME HOT TIPS

A STUDY IN GREEN



The Lawn Shed first launched in Spring of 2021, with the goal of delivering all our customers the lawn of their dreams. Whether that be bringing a lawn back from the dead, clearing out weeds or having the best lawn in the street.

So we were ecstatic when Ben came to us for advice and shared the photos of his success, which truly speak for themselves.

Ben purchased the [Spring Lawn Care pack](#), which wiped out his weed problem in just one application. Another application the following weekend and more than a few days of rain and he was well on his way to the best lawn in the street.

"I just followed the guide which came with the box. It was a lot easier than I thought, one application for the weeds and another to get it growing."

Well done Ben, this truly is what we love to see and thanks for sharing your success.

RENOVATE YOUR LAWN THIS SPRING



Your dream lawn isn't out of reach, purchase our Spring Starter Pack and get it started on the right track today.

Professional quality products and the advice to match.

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PEST PROFILE: AFRICAN BLACK BEETLE



Scientific Name: *Heteronychus arator*

As the name suggests, they are a beetle, a black one...

Like many insects they observe a particular life cycle, being a beetle this means they go from egg, to larvae (grub), to pupae, and adult (beetle) before mating, then start the process all over again.

Now we could launch into a detailed morphological description but let's just skip to what you really need to know to give this guy the sucker punch he deserves.

The larvae (lar-vay) is the part that does the most damage, think of it as a growing teenager who will eat you out of house and home as he goes through growth spurts and becomes an adult.

The larvae initially starts on decaying organic matter but it quickly moves onto your lawns roots. With no way to move water and nutrients up or down the plant, the lawn will die off in small patches. These dead patches start to widen as they move around searching for new roots, and with these roots eaten, the yellow leaves of the lawn can be easily pulled out.

Birds have amazing eye sight and are very efficient at ripping your lawn apart in their hunt for their next meal.

Larvae attack all lawn types and aren't particularly fussy eaters, but they do prefer to dine out on kikuyu lawns.

PEST PROFILE: AFRICAN BLACK BEETLE



They may not have a huge wingspan, however they do fly and travel great distances. Like many insects they are attracted to outdoor lighting. Summer seasons that are hot and dry in particular, will cause plague-like populations.

The first sign of African Black Beetle is in early Spring when the adult comes out to mate and lay eggs. They lay approximately 6-12 eggs each, so they can very quickly become a problem.

The eggs hatch and the larvae start to come out in August to September (depending on location), that's why we recommend treating at this stage – the juvenile grub is far easier to eradicate than the adult beetle.

We recommend Acelepryn® applied in August-September for the best control of African Black Beetle larvae, because, to put it simply, it is the gold standard in insect control for lawns. Acelepryn® controls a broad range of common lawn pests, from one 6 month application. With birds searching for grubs on your lawn, picking a product with a fantastic environmental safety profile is a great idea. Acelepryn® ensures strong binding to the soil, even La Nina won't be able to get rid of this one.

PEST PROFILE: LAWN ARMYWORM



Scientific Name: *Spodoptera maurita* (pictured), *Leucania convecta*, *Persectania ewingii*, *Spodoptera exempta*

Skeletons, that's the easiest way to describe the way your lawn looks after Lawn Armyworm. The Lawn Armyworm is a caterpillar which loves to snack on the soft leaf blades of your lawn, not interested in the harder stems and below ground parts.

Like the armies of old, the Armyworm advances in a straight line destroying everything in its path.

They are common pests of lawns and are often easily identifiable by the speed and style in which they do their damage. When high levels of infestation occur, they have been known to completely destroy large lawns overnight.

Lawn Armyworm hide just below the surface (in the thatch) during the day and come out to feed at night. A night-time inspection with a torch is one of the best ways to find them. Another simple way is to leave a wet towel on the ground overnight, they won't realise they haven't gone underground and you will find them underneath having a nap.

They appear grey to green and even brown in colour, with stripes and stars along their body (another reason they get called Armyworm). When fully grown they can be up to 4cm long.

PEST PROFILE: LAWN ARMYWORM



They love warmer temperatures, so the Lawn Armyworm season tends to begin in Queensland and the Northern Territory in mid-Summer, then moving further south into New South Wales, Western Australia and ACT by late Summer and Autumn. The season rounds up for most by Autumn but can continue into the winter period for those in warm tropical areas.

Lawn Armyworm, like all caterpillars, lay eggs. This means you can get multiple generations of the pest in your lawn, recurring again and again if proper treatment methods aren't used.

Don't wait to treat. Unlike some insects that only create a small amount of damage, that is not the case with Lawn Armyworm. Due to the speed in which they destroy lawns, it's important you get an application of the correct insecticide out as soon as possible.

Acelepryn® is the gold standard in common lawn pest control problems. When it comes to controlling Lawn Armyworm, it is particularly effective because it remains in the soil (residual), not to just knock down initial populations, but to kill future generations of Lawn Armyworm. A single application for season long grub and caterpillar control.

If your lawn has already been damaged, you will still need to treat to kill any future infestations, and you will also need to give your lawn a big kick of fertiliser, such as Lawn Play Renovate®, as it will need to start the regrowth of all those eaten leaves.

PRODUCT PROFILE: ACELEPRYN



Acelepryn® GR is used by professional turf managers because it is truly the gold standard in white grub insect control, and a product worth getting excited about.

Controlling a large number of common lawn pests for up to 6 months with one application, it's the kind of technology you love because it really is an insurance policy for your lawn against common lawn insects.

The great features that we love:

- Controls a broad range of common lawn pests
- Set and forget application provides up to 6 months protection
- Easy to apply granular product
- A fantastic environmental profile, safe for beneficial organisms like bees and earthworms
- A fantastic user safety profile, no PPE required and commonly used on schools and public parks
- Paralyzes grubs in the soil where they can't be eaten by birds
- Strong binding with the soil means no movement into non-target areas
- Resealable bag with 4 layers and vent allows for easy storage of any leftovers

GOING, GOING, GONE

Are you willing to take the risk?
Insure your lawn against common lawn pests
with Acelepryn® GR



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DISEASE PROFILE: LEAF SPOT



Scientific Name: *Dreschlera* spp., *Bipolaris* spp., *Exserohilum* spp.

Leaf Spot or Helmo, as some call it, is a group of diseases in the Helminthosporium complex.

Like almost all types of turf diseases there are some conditions which encourage development and infection. Leaf spot loves rainy but warmer conditions, during these periods it is best to avoid mowing when wet and applications of high, fast release nitrogen.

Unfortunately with a range of fungi types it impacts a large range of grasses including all common lawn grasses such as couch, kikuyu and buffalo.

The good news is that Leaf Spot doesn't always need treatment. Leaf Spot is exactly as the description suggests, a spot on the leaf. With one or two spots on the leaf, the plant can still grow, the leaf grows taller and the disease can be cut off. Problems start to arise however when the spots join together, this prohibits moisture and nutrients reaching the part of the leaf above the damaged area and it dies off. When these spots start to occur at the base of the plant then a large amount of turf can be damaged.

Treatment means using some fungicide such as Impala® as well as ensuring conditions which encourage the disease are removed. Try watering during the morning to reduce leaf wetness, do not apply extra nitrogen until conditions have cleared up. Mowing with a catcher and when the lawn is dry is advised.

If unsure about any of these directions or if you have more questions please contact us.

FOR THE NOT SO FUN GUYS

Disease control doesn't need to be intimidating.
Impala® gives you great disease protection and cure.



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GROWTH REGULATION: A NEW CONCEPT TO TRIAL?



*Treated (top) vs Untreated (bottom)
Buffalo Grass*

For many the concept of regulating the way your grass grows may be a new concept, so we are going to start with the basics.

In a sentence, they inhibit the hormone (gibberellic acid) that promotes cell division and elongation...

In a more understandable explanation though...

The turfgrass plant is an amazing machine with lots of processes occurring within the plants leaves and roots. Some of these processes, particularly growth processes, require plant hormones.

While plant hormones may be a new concept to you, did you know most gardeners apply root hormones on a regular basis? They just don't realise it. Seaweed solutions like Lawn Play Seavival® contain hormones like cytokinins (si-toe-ki-nins) which initiate root development and auxins (aux-ins) which do a whole host of things like assist with flower development. So that's why you get such great results from seaweed on lawns and gardens. You're supplementing the natural hormonal processes within the plant.



*Untreated (top) vs Untreated (bottom)
Kikuyu Grass*

While auxins and cytokinins are hormones we are keen to encourage and we like to support the plant by adding more, gibberellic acid (jib-er-relic) is one we aren't so keen to promote.

This hormone initiates cell elongation in the leaves and if you have a fast-moving lawn you are going to hate this guy.

So, now that we've given a bit of the background on plant hormones it becomes simple. The active ingredient in these plant growth regulators (trinexepac-ethyl) blocks the plant from producing too much gibberellic acid. Without it there's less cell elongation and slower growth.

Not only will they slow vertical growth but they decrease the internodal length (see previous image) which creates a much tighter denser lawn.

In case reducing mowing and clippings isn't enough for you then consider that treated areas will use water 30% better!

Now you know why Plant Growth Regulators (PGRs) are the lifeblood of the sportsturf industry.

SECRET OF THE PROS



Plant growth regulators make good grass great and are a vital component on every finely cut turf surface



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DIVE DEEP INTO THE SOIL WITH

THE SOIL ECOSYSTEM: WHAT'S INSIDE



Soil in its most basic form is made up of 4 key ingredients.

Mineral particles – made from weathered rock. This forms a large component of the soil and creates the structure required for plant life to grow.

Air – as other components of soil attempt to settle, some air (pore) spaces are left. These are critical to allowing the plants roots to breathe and for a healthy environment within the soil.

Water – fills the pore spaces when added through irrigation or rainfall and is crucial for sustaining plant life.

Organic materials including living organisms – good mixture of organic materials as well as flora and fauna creates an environment for plants to thrive.



So the concept of soil nutrition should be more about developing the soil with the right ingredients to ensure this ecosystem is running at its best.

For ease of understanding we love to use analogies, so think of your soil as a fridge, with proper nutritional applications you can ensure your soil fridge is filled with healthy, nutritious ready to eat meals. On the other side of the coin, though, no applications leave your soil fridge empty and your lawn malnourished.

Not all food is created equal, just like fast food vs a salad, not all fertiliser is created equal. So how do you ensure your soil is getting the right "healthy" nutrition?

Our lawns are highly adaptable and can for some part run themselves, so it's simply a matter of ensuring these existing natural processes are supercharged.

The first place to start is with a well balanced Nitrogen, Phosphorous and Potassium product designed for lawns with additional trace elements. Now there are many fertilisers that do that but some go the extra mile, a very important mile.

A high quality, professional fertiliser goes beyond just the nutritional format because, as we mentioned, it supercharges the natural soil and plant processes.

While mineral particles can be brought in when building a new lawn it's generally the organic materials and living organisms that we impact the most with our lawn care practices especially when fertilising.

Our soil is said to be alive when flora and fauna are behaving in a well balanced ecosystem. When we get this balance just right it's a powerful combination, boosting soils to a whole new level.



A high quality fertiliser also contains:

Organic acids – acids in the soil are critical to ensuring nutrients such as Magnesium, Calcium, Iron, Zinc and other metals are kept in a form that can be taken up and used by the plant.

Amino acids – in a country with harsh weather conditions, like Australia, having additional biostimulants added to the soil increase the natural productivity of the plant allowing it to cope better with stress.

Sugars – in the soil, sugars act to provide food to plant-beneficial microbes.

Microbes – the role of microbes in the soil are huge. They do everything from convert nitrogen and phosphorus into plant available forms, act to suppress pests and fungal pathogens, improve the lawns ability to handle stress, and assist with the decomposition of organic matter.

That's why we recommend the best path to soil and ultimately lawn health is to build a healthy soil fridge for your lawn to draw upon. This starts with boosting the natural processes of the soil and lawn.

We are fortunate to be able to offer professional quality, organic products to you in our Lawnganics® range.

IS YOUR FRIDGE EMPTY?



Our lawns take nutrients from the soil, just like we do from our fridge. The better the quality of the nutrients, the better the health.

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SAVE THE DATES

Lawn care is very simple using our Lawnganic® liquids. Simply apply the right product at the right time and your lawn will love you for it.

Add these notes to your calendar and then pass this on to your neighbours when they start to ask how you did it.

Protect against many common lawn insects using Acelepryn. Apply on the first weekend in September.

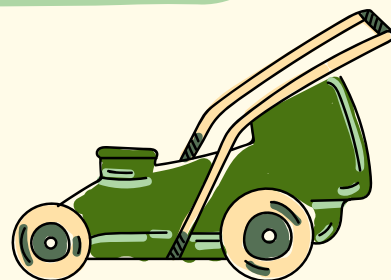
Knock out weeds the last weekend in July using Turf Control.

Fertilise your lawn with a light monthly application on the first weekend of each month.

Use Lawnganics Roots, Brilliance and Vitalise for May, June, July.

Use Lawnganics Brilliance, Nourish and Vitalise for every other month.

Protect against common grass weeds with an application of Spartan on the first weekend in September and again on the last weekend in February.





Contact Us



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